FIU's Ph.D. program is one of the nation’s first and longest-standing Ph.D. programs in Atlantic history.

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Since the mid-fifteenth century, the Atlantic has provided the corridor for fundamental exchanges of peoples and technologies. It has also served as a platform for the transfer of ideas defining and challenging communities across wide spans of time and space. The principle behind the Atlantic Civilization focus of the doctoral program in History at Florida International University is to explore the many dimensions of these exchanges. Capitalizing on the department’s notably strong resources and faculty, the program is designed around a curriculum that emphasizes the comparative framework of the Atlantic experience while reflecting the vitality of a cross-disciplinary approach.

Many students incorporate the study of the Atlantic into their field exams and write comparative or transnational dissertations that engage with multiple aspects or regions of the Atlantic Basin. The department also offers doctoral students strong thematic training in topics such as empires and colonialism; women, gender, and sexuality; law; public health; slavery and race relations; and public history and memory.

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The Ph.D. requires 45 credit hours beyond the M.A. in History, or 75 credit hours beyond the B.A. In both cases, 15 of the credits are dissertation credits earned after passing comprehensive examinations and advancing to candidacy.

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